

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059069
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 OIC-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT:BJS
APPROVED BY IO:GDALLEY
H:GELANPHER

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O R 080315Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR EDWARD MEZVINSKY - USDEL TO HRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC

SUBJECT: 34TH U. N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: UGANDA

DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED COPY OF LETTER ON UGANDA TO
EDWARD MEZVINSKY FROM THIRTEEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT CONGRESSMAN BUCHANAN DELIVERED
ORIGINAL TO MEZVINSKY. WE ARE TRANSMITTING COPY FOR THE
RECORD. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR ED: AS YOU KNOW, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS RECENTLY
RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA TO
VIEW HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS THERE FIRSTHAND. THE
CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE SUBCOMMITTEES WHICH HAVE BEEN HOLDING
JOINT HEARINGS ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH UGANDA AND INTER-
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NATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CLEMENT ZABLOCKI,
RESPONDED LAST WEEK. THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT
OF UGANDA CONSIDER EXTENDING ITS INVITATION TO THE
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION INSTEAD AS A MORE
APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATION FOR CONDUCTING SUCH AN INVESTIGA-
TION.

THE EVIDENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN UGANDA IS
ALREADY QUITE EXTENSIVE, BUT AN EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS ON
THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA TO ALLOW AN

INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS IN THE
COUNTRY WOULD BE A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT. WE UNDERSTAND
THAT THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAS JUST DECIDED
TO SEND A DELEGATION TO UGANDA UNDER THE 1503 PROCEDURE.
THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE HIGHLY COMMENDED FOR THIS
DECISION.

THERE REMAIN CERTAIN CONCERNS, HOWEVER, WHICH PERHAPS
ARE BEST COMMUNICATED BY THE U.S. DELEGATION PRIVATELY
TO RELEVANT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN CONSULTATIONS ON UGANDA.
ANY INSPECTION SHOULD INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS FROM INTER-
NATIONALLY RESPECTED NON-GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS
INSTITUTIONS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF
RECENT CLAIMS REGARDING POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN IDI
AMIN'S ACTIONS. ANY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION SENT TO
UGANDA SHOULD ALSO HAVE AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT ITS WORK
IN THE COUNTRY COMPLETELY UNHINDERED WITH RESPECT TO
INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED OR LOCATIONS VISITED. FINALLY, THE
FINDINGS AND BACKGROUND DATA GENERATED BY AN INTERNATIONAL
INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS
SOON AS A REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

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WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE AND WORK ON
BEHALF OF THESE CONCERNS DURING THE COMMISSION'S
PROCEEDINGS. SINCERELY, (SIGNED) DON BONKER, DON PEASE,
WYCHE FOWLER, JR., MICHAEL HARRINGTON, BENJAMIN S.
ROSENTHAL, JOHN H. BUCHANAN, JR., CHARLES W. WHALEN, JR.,
JOHN J. CAVANAUGH, JR., ANDY IRELAND, EDWARD J. DERWINSKI,
CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI, LEE H. HAMILTON, STEPHEN J. SOLARZ.
END OF TEXT.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, TEXT, LEGISLATORS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE059069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFTEFFT:BJS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780103-0855
Format: TEL
From: STATE JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780392/aaaacztptel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7cf70fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3401965
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 34TH U. N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: UGANDA DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED COPY OF LETTER ON UGANDA TO EDWARD MEZVINSKY FROM THIRTEEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
TAGS: SHUM, UG, US, UNHRC
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7cf70fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014